

And then he thoughtfully added, "Why?"  
 St. Peter was silent, with head bent down  
 He raised his hat and scratched his crown:  
 Then, seeming a different thought to take,  
 Slowly, half to himself, he spake:  
 "Thirty years with that woman there?  
 No wonder the man hasn't got any hair!"

"Swearing is wicked,—smoking's no good,—  
 He smoked and he swore,—I should think he would!  
 Thirty years with that tongue so sharp!  
 Ho! Angel Gabriel, give him a harp!  
 A jeweled harp with a golden string!  
 Good s'r, pass in where the angels sing!  
 Gabriel, give him a seat alone—

One with a cushion—up near the throne!  
 Call up some angels to play their best,  
 Let him enjoy the music and rest;  
 See that the finest ambrosia he feeds,—  
 He's had about all the hell he needs;  
 It isn't just hardly the thing to do—  
 To roast him on earth and the future too."

They gave him a harp with golden strings,  
 A glittering robe and a pair of wings,  
 And he said as he entered the realms of day—  
 "Well, this beats encumbers any day!"  
 And so the Scriptures had come to pass—  
 "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."

## Christian Overflow at Funeral of Freethinker

**Bands of Music Played Patriotic Airs and Flags Took the Place of Conventional Crepe. Report of the Funeral of William H. Morrow, at Ada, Ohio, May 2, 1909.**

(By Dr. J. B. Wilson.)

Before commenting on this remarkable funeral, I will preface my remarks by inserting a report of the same, by the Cleveland Press, which had a reporter on hand, and a letter from a Christian citizen of Ada, to the New Castle News (Pa.). Press reports of this funeral were sent all over the country. I insert these reports for the reason that, while they are scurrilous and misleading, and in some places untruthful, upon the whole they verify all that I shall say. They admit that we had a jam and an overflow meeting, and that Christianity was dealt a good, hard blow. Since they would rather make light of, and underestimate, these reports become important.

### From The Cleveland Press:

"ADA, O., May 3.—Two thousand people struggled Sunday afternoon to gain admission to the funeral of Wm. Henry Morrow, 77, atheist, which was held in the national guard armory at Ada.

A band, composed mostly of Ohio Northern University cadets, played a patriotic medley of airs in a funeral parade through the streets. Everything was carried out just as Morrow had arranged two years before his death.

The armory held only about 1500 people. Men who could not gain admission crushed against women and children in frantic effort to pass through the doorway. Two women fainted.

Obituary cards, with red, white and blue borders, containing Morrow's infidel creed, and small American flags were distributed as the crowd rushed past the bier to obtain seats.

Rev. O. B. Pershing, First Presbyterian church, pleaded with the members of his congregation, in a Sunday morning sermon, not to attend the funeral.

"Christians should not go to hear scoffers," he said.

A. W. Clutter, business man, opened the services without ceremony. He reviewed the dead man's life. Morrow had been a Baptist minister, but turned against Christianity. He had been health officer and head of the

Ada Building & Loan Association for 20 years. He was a G. A. R. man and had lost an arm in the battle of Chancellorsville.

Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, spent two hours in lauding atheism. Dr. Wilson joked as he talked, and brought some laughter from the audience.

"That's right, laugh," he said. "We are not here to mourn."

"Morrow was a square man," Dr. Wilson said. "If he had any faults I know of I'd name them. We are not here to consider Morrow as an angel, plumed for paradise, with a celestial prize package in his possession. He believed as I do, that death ends all."

"Yankee Doodle" was the selection Morrow had wanted played when the speaking was concluded. The bandmaster carried out his directions.

Morrow's widow and his four grown children were the last to leave the hall.

The band played "Marching Through Georgia," "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean" and the "Star Spangled Banner" as the members of the Morrow family were escorted home.

Morrow chose his coffin two years ago and erected a tombstone with inscriptions expressing disbelief in a hereafter.

One motto reads: "Give humanity truth, not myths; knowledge, not dogmas."

A verse from Mark Twain reads: "Look at Adam, what have we done for Adam? What has Adam done for us? Everything. He gave us life; he gave us death; he gave us heaven; he gave us hell."

### From The New Castle News (Pa.):

"ADA, O., May 2, 1909.

"Editor News:—

"The funeral of one of the noted atheists of this country, W. H. Morrow, who died last Tuesday, was held publicly today in the Armory. The remains will be sent to Cleveland tonight to be cremated. As I witnessed the whole procession, which was one of the most inhuman and uncivilized spectacles that I have ever seen, I thought possibly some of the people at home would be interested, and I knew of no better way to let them know than through the News.